

PLANNING AND SERVICE AREA

Plan and manage, in coordination with other water utilities, water supply needs of the King County area, which may include providing service in areas where it is consistent with county comprehensive and land use plans and in compliance with the department's conditions of service.

Philosophy

The Seattle Water Department, through historical policies and existing long-term contracts, currently supplies water on a wholesale basis to many local jurisdictions throughout King County, and a small portion of Snohomish County. As a result, the department has become the largest municipal water supplier in the state.

The department recognizes that economic, operational, and environmental efficiencies may be gained from coordinated water supply planning and management that includes all resources and suppliers in the county as well as Tacoma and Everett. The need for regional coordination becomes more compelling as the population grows, regulatory requirements become more stringent, and competing demands on water resources intensify. The department also acknowledges its obligation to coordinate water resource planning with growth management planning being conducted in the cities and counties throughout the region.

By emphasizing coordinated planning and management, the department's system becomes one component of a regional water distribution network. In this network, while continuing as the leading regional supplier, the department will work with other utilities and appropriate federal, state and local agencies, and with Indian tribal governments, to find the best solution to water needs throughout the planning area. In some instances this may result in the department extending service to wholesale customers not currently served by the system, while still fulfilling its obligation to meet present and future water needs of existing customers. The emphasis will be on efficiently and reliably meeting the region's water needs in a way that is consistent with federal, state and local water policy, and county comprehensive and land use plans.

Policy Implementation Guidelines

- (1) Coordinate with water suppliers in the Puget Sound Basin to plan for water needs in the department's service area and the region.
- (2) Work to develop a single plan that addresses water supply issues for all of King County, consistent with county comprehensive and land use plans and future state basin planning requirements.
- (3) Manage the Seattle system in coordination with other utilities in the region to maximize efficiency and reliability, which includes complementing system operation with use of interties and small groundwater sources.
- (4) Service may be extended to new areas, at the City's discretion. Meeting the conditions listed below does not, however, obligate the City to provide service. Service extensions will be granted only if approved by the Mayor and City Council. At a minimum, the following must be met:
 - (a) the proposed new service is compatible with the county comprehensive and land use plans;
 - (b) the proposed new service is in compliance with any applicable state regulations on interties;

- (c) regional benefits or efficiencies are to be gained, and outweigh the costs to existing retail and wholesale customers; and
 - (d) potential new wholesale customers are able to meet requirements and conditions defined in the "Service to Customers" policy.
- (5) Service can be extended to areas currently not served in the event of a health emergency even if conditions for service can not be met.